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Date: January 21, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

The Microsoft antitrust case reminds me of the novel *Atlas Shrugged*, written by Ayn Rand. In the novel, industrial competitors turn to the government and empower it to choose winners and losers in the marketplace.

Without question, Microsoft's primary competitors have joined into an unholy alliance with the judicial arm of government, in an effort to target the success of Microsoft and its popular software.

You might also want to reference Frederick Bastiat's *The Law*, to gain his insights on how government attempts to choose winners and losers in the marketplace.

I have been intimately involved with personal computers and the software that drives them since the very early 80's. As a computer consultant and a database software developer for nearly twenty years, I would be amused by government lawyers with limited computer skills -- and an even more limited grasp of the actual inner working of software -- trying to dictate policy to a marketplace that literally changes every day. If the stakes weren't so high.

As an active and informed citizen, I have a thorough understanding of the roles the branches of government are to play in our society, and the business of choosing winners and losers in the marketplace is not a function of government, it belongs to the American consumer.

Sign off on the proposed settlement before you in this case and let us do our work.

Sincerely,


Loren Schulte

In His service

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